

**LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER  
KICKOFF III  
OUTLINE AND WRITING GUIDELINES**

**I. PRAYER**

**II. WELCOME** (One member)

- Thank all the presenting couples for coming and the host couple for opening their home.
- Introduce yourself, then share your spouse's endearing quality.
- Give the date of your original Weekend, how long you have been a presenting couple and which set of talks you are currently presenting.
- Invite everyone to do the same by going around the room. [To include those still writing who haven't given a Weekend yet, you may wish to ask for the set of talks they are writing.]

**III. INTRODUCTION** (1/2 min.)

- This presentation is different from others, being exclusively for them as Lutheran Marriage Encounter presenters.
- Briefly tell them what a Kickoff III is - a very special time to share and that calls for a yes or no answer from each of them, to recommit to being a presenting couple for Lutheran Marriage Encounter.

**IV. ROMANCE, DISILLUSIONMENT AND JOY AS A PRESENTING COUPLE** (3-5 min. each)

**ROMANCE**

- The first person sharing in this section should include a short lead-in.  
This may include that just as the cycle of Romance and Disillusionment, and the state of joy repeat in our couple relationship, they also occur in other relationships; and now we are focusing on our Romance, Disillusionment and Joy in being a presenting couple.
- The Romance section should include your feelings and thoughts from both the time you were originally asked to be a presenting couple as well as the romance as it occurs now, actively being a presenting couple.  
This is an "I" section, so share only yourself as you look back. In all parts of IV, include your personality style where applicable.
- This is not a complete list by any means, but here are some suggestions to look at:  
  
Being asked to be a presenting couple  
Did you struggle with the decision?  
Were your expectations of being presenters part of your romance?  
Someone encouraged us - HDIFAT?  
  
Kickoff I & II - did being a presenting couple sound exciting?  
Excitement and anticipation of a Deeper Weekend  
Looking ahead to writing - were you excited for the closeness you expected to gain?

Anticipation of that first Weekend as presenters  
Anticipation of any Weekend you give  
Your dreams - did ILME seem to be the "perfect" organization?  
Did you look forward to belonging to ILME?  
Was the idea of working "together" appealing?  
Did you have expectations for growth in your couple relationship?  
Did you have expectations for growth in your couple or individual relationship with God?  
Were you excited to see Participants on the weekend bloom?

(Although the above ideas may seem focused on the early experiences as a presenting couple, it is important to also use examples of current Romance.)

**DISILLUSIONMENT** (1 - 1.5 min. each)

- o Your own personal disillusionment: bring out your feelings, judgments and attitudes that come about because of the kind of person you are.  
You need to be careful here not to blame others for your disillusionment.
- o Here are some suggestions you may want to use. This list is not intended to be complete. You may have other disillusionments that you want to share.

Preparing for Weekends

Writing talks  
Rewriting talks  
Workshopping  
Being workshopped  
Pre- and post-Weekend letters  
Getting baby-sitters

Seeing a lack of commitment in yourself  
Is writing sharing letters a chore?  
Are we saying "yes" to being a prayer couple?  
Are we active in community?  
Have we lost the focus of the Weekend?  
Do we still have a vision for ILME and the world?  
Are we living the Weekend concepts?

Loving tasks other than giving Weekends

Local, District, Regional, International  
Attending meetings  
Loving tasks becoming "jobs"  
Seeing the business side of Marriage Encounter

Missing Dialogue

Time

Setting priorities  
TV

**JOY** (1 - 1/5 min. each)

Share the Joy relating to being presenters -- It should include examples of joy both from preparing and presenting a Weekend, and from your personal growth as a couple. Listed are a few areas you may want to look at for examples.

Dialogue

- Sharing feelings (me)
- Growth together (we)
- Growth in faith (God)
- Living the weekend (we, God & the world)

The Weekend

- Writing talks - getting deeper in all areas
- Presenting and listening to other talks
- Sunday night of Weekends
- Hearing from couples after the Weekend
- Seeing couples get involved
- Changing the world

Friendships

- Support from others
- Presenting couples
- Community
- Instant family all over the world
- One-ringers (giving and receiving)
- Being involved (as prayer couples, etc.)

Loving Tasks

- Accepting a task
- Rewards

V. **SHARING**

- The introduction for the sharing for Kickoff III is similar to the introduction of sharing for Cana and Weekend Renewal. The section should be brief but clear.
- It is important for the presenting couples to understand what we are asking is for them to share their feelings about their own Romance, Disillusionment and Joy in being a presenting couple. We are not asking for stories, accounts or dissertations on some of the things that have happened to them while they have been presenters.
- Stress the unique opportunity we all have here, and don't let periods of silence be a distraction.
- Encourage someone to be first
- Thank all the couples for supporting each other both through their gifts of sharing and gifts of listening.

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VII. RESPONSIBILITIES (2-3 min. - divide between presenters)

- o Saying yes to being a presenting couple involves a commitment to many responsibilities. We need to look again at what our commitment involves. We want the couples attending KO III to hear about these responsibilities again.
- o Many of these responsibilities are self-explanatory, but please give a brief personalized explanation after each one. Share the importance of each responsibility and how you've grown in this area or how you've neglected this area.
- o The responsibilities may be divided among the four presenters. It should be noted that the following list may not be complete. Add to it as you see fit. They are also not listed in any order of importance. They are all important.

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To your own relationship - keeping your relationship #1

- Dialogue daily
- Take time just for each other
- Live the concepts of the Weekend
- Contribute to, take part in and support your church

To your talks

- Dialogue daily -- can you share through your talks if you don't dialogue?
- Put your best into writing
- Have your writing completed on time
- Rewrite promptly when you change or when new materials come out

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- To the weekends
- Write pre- and post-Weekend letter promptly and personally
- Attend the Weekend Renewals
- Complete Weekend reports promptly
- Attend Kickoffs for couples from your Weekends
- Participate in communion on the Weekend

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To your presenting couple community

- Attend presenting couple meetings
- Support other presenting couples with prayers and letters
- Be a "buddy couple" for new writing couples
- Be a good writing couple; be sensitive to your workshoppers
- Be a good workshopper; be available to your writing couples
- Write Kickoff talks

To your local ILME community

- Be visible
- Organize/take part in a love circle
- Invite couples to the Weekend
- Ask to be a prayer couples
- Take on other activities

Other loving tasks

Contact Couple  
Presenting Couple Coordinator  
Area, District, Regional or International tasks

**VIII. RECOMMITMENT AND WRAP-UP (1 min.)**

- This section is intended to explain that at one time each of the presenting couples made a commitment to the responsibilities of being a presenting couple and now they have the opportunity to commit once again.
- Ask them to think about it, pray about it, dialogue about it and talk about it.
- Remind them that it is still a decision that they must make as a couple. Both must be willing to make the commitment.
- Ask them to reconsider their commitment as a presenting couple and to call or write to the presenting couple coordinator by the deadline. (This date will also be indicated on the handout.)
- Tell them you have a handout for them and explain the responsibilities and dialogue handout.
- Close by thanking them all for attending Kickoff III. You may want to finish with a prayer.

Hi, Lovers -

This is a special invitation to a Presenting Couple meeting scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_. We are making this a special invitation because we believe it will be a special Presenting Couple meeting. We hope you can set side that time to be with the rest of the Presenting Couple Community to experience a Kickoff III.

Kickoff III is a review of the commitment we have all made as Presenting Couples for Lutheran Marriage Encounter. We hope the experience will bring back memories of you Kickoff I & II and will help you take a fresh look at the responsibilities and commitments you made, whether your Kickoffs were four months ago, four years ago, or even longer!

We \_\_\_\_\_ will be giving the Kickoff and will be sharing our own Romance, Disillusionment and Joy as presenting couples, as well as reviewing the responsibilities and commitments we have all made. You will also have the chance to share your Romance, Disillusionment and Joy as well as an opportunity to recommit yourselves as a Presenting Couple for Lutheran Marriage Encounter.

In preparation for our meeting, we ask you to dialogue on these questions:

- How has being a presenting couple affected me as an individual? HDIFAT?
- How has being a presenting couple affected our relationship? HDIFAT?
- How has being a presenting couple affected members of our family? HDIFAT?
- What effect have we had on other couples and individuals by being a presenting couple? HDIFAT?

For those of you who may be writing talks and have not yet given a Weekend, please use the following questions:

- How has writing affected me as an individual? HDIFAT?
- How has writing affected our relationship? HDIFAT?
- How has writing affected members of our family? HDIFAT?

We also ask you to make a special attempt to be at our meeting. We are looking forward to the opportunity to be with you once again.

We love you,

## HANDOUT FOR KICKOFF III

### PRESENTING COUPLE RESPONSIBILITIES

- ◆ To your own relationship - keeping your relationship #1
  - Dialogue daily
  - Take time just for each other
  - Live the concepts of the Weekend
  - Contribute to, take part in and support your church
  
- ◆ To your talks
  - Dialogue daily -- can you share through your talks if you don't dialogue?
  - Put your best into writing
  - Have your writing completed on time
  - Rewrite promptly when you change or when new materials come out
  
- ◆ To the weekends
  - Participate in communion on the Weekend
  - Write pre- and post-Weekend letter promptly and personally
  - Attend the Weekend Renewals
  - Complete Weekend reports promptly
  - Attend Kickoffs for couples from your Weekends
  
- ◆ To your presenting couple community
  - Attend presenting couple meetings
  - Support other presenting couples with prayers and letters
  - Be a "buddy couple" for new writing couples
  - Be a good writing couple; be sensitive to your workshoppers
  - Be a good workshopper; be available to your writing couples
  - Be a workshop coordinator
  - Write Kickoff talks
  - Be the Kickoff coordinator
  
- ◆ To your local ILME community
  - Be visible
  - Organize/take part in a love circle
  - Invite couples to the Weekend
  - Ask to be a prayer couples
  - Take on other activities
  
- ◆ Other loving tasks
  - Contact Couple
  - Presenting Couple Coordinator
  - Area, District, Regional or International tasks

NOTE: The above are not intended to be in order of importance. They are all important.

## DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. Where do Presenting Couple responsibilities fit on my list of priorities?  
HDIFAMA?
1. Am I willing to make the time for Presenting Couple responsibilities?  
HDIFAT?
2. HDIFA our commitment to being a Presenting Couple for Lutheran Marriage Encounter?
3. DO I think we are being called to share our couple love in another way?  
(Other than as a Presenting Couple?) HDIFAT?

Note: Please call \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
with your decision.

We love you.